



In Brief



If you have any feedback, or would like to contribute material, please email editor@australiasocietytokyo.com
This **In Brief** will be emailed to members each month. Details of events can be found on the website.

What's Coming Up?

Australia Society Ski Trip – Saturday 24th ~ Tuesday 27th February - Yuzawa Onsen –
Packages start from 55,000JPY per person – full details on the Australia Society Web site:
<http://www.australiasocietytokyo.com/events/2007/01/24/charityskitrip.html>

Monthly coffee mornings:

Next: Thursday March 1 10:00~12noon at: Oakwood Residence Roppongi T-cube
Level 22, 3-1-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032 / T: 03-6229-3131.

Cost: FREE for members, 2000 yen for non-members. For inquiries, or to RSVP please contact Anna Cock-Gibson annacock@hotmail.com

Future Dates

Thursday April 5
Thursday June 7
Thursday September 6
Thursday October 4
Thursday November 1
Thursday December 6

Diary Dates

Flyers with registration and payment details will be emailed to members and posted to the website.

Mark your diaries now so you don't miss out. Please check the flyers for the latest information in case there has been a change in details.

Welcome to New Members

The Australia Society extends a warm welcome to new members:

Bill & Janelle Withers
David Erbacher & Mikako Ueno
Mark Bellchambers
Chad Mullano
Pauline Lee
Alison Airey
Chloe Steveson
Emma Wilson

Amanda Walker
Linsey Bower
Roy Suzuki
Aaron Dauber
Andrew & Kerry Guthrie
Wayne Porritt & Kuan Chia
Kate & Alexander Blanchard
Shigeru Okada

Robert Quinlivan - President

From the President

(Robert Quinlivan)



This year is off to a hectic start and my new year health and diet plans have already been trashed. I guess the only option is to try again now that the Australia Day Ball is over. And what a night it was - great venue, delicious food, lots of entertainment, plenty of wine and a big crowd on the dance floor right to the end. As well as being a good time for all in attendance, we managed to raise a record amount for our designated charities. All in all a great result.

A huge thank you to all the members of our ball committee who worked tirelessly to organise the event. Led by co-chairs Jasmin Kallas and Judy Taylor-Boland, the Committee including Allison Bottrell, Karen Bruce, Anna Cock-Gibson, Aliy Lickfold, Kate Rudolph, Mary Saphin, Tony Scimonello, Leanne Stone should be very proud of their efforts. Well done and we're already looking forward to next year.

Also, a big thanks to our sponsors - in particular lead sponsor Qantas, platinum sponsors American Airlines, ANZ Bank, Bear Stearns and Macquarie Bank. Details of the complete sponsor list can be found on the last page of the newsletter and we ask that you consider supporting our sponsors whenever possible.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, we have a full calendar of events planned. As well as the old favourites, we have a few new events - starting with the ski trip in February. Sign up quickly for what promises to be a great weekend. Other ideas include an outing to the Sumo in May and a boat cruise on Tokyo Bay during the summer. We'll be investigating these and other ideas over the coming months. Let us know if you have an idea or are keen to organise a new event.

An early reminder that the Society's Annual General Meeting is coming up in April / May - all official positions are vacant and we're always keen for volunteers to stand for the Committee.

The Committee was thinking of a pub night to coincide with the final of the VB cricket series in Australia, but given the form of the English and Kiwis and the resulting quick Aussie wins, we're not sure whether the event will still be on by the time that people could get to the pub in the evening. Anyway, we'll be on the lookout for some kind of improvement in form from Australia's opposition or other events to coincide with a pub night in the near future.

Regards

Rob

Fun in the Past

Morning Coffee

(By Anna Cock-Gibson)

Monthly coffee mornings have resumed at the Oakwood Roppongi T-Cube, and at this month's event we welcomed a handful of new arrivals to Tokyo, including Kate Blanchard, Emma Wilson and Abbie Stavroff.



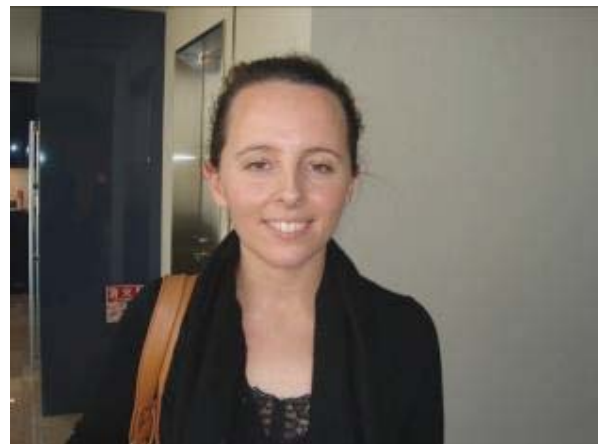
Abbie Stavroff (left) and new member
Emma Wilson



Debbie Sorkin from Sirva Relocation



Lorraine Weyman & David Wallace



Kate Blanchard

2007 Australia Day Gala Ball

(By Judy Taylor and Jasmin Kallas)



On Friday 26 January, 520 people were seated for a scrumptious five course dinner at the Grand Hyatt to celebrate our annual Australia Day Gala Ball. The night was a huge success drawing in record takings in sponsorship through cash sponsorship, silent & live auctions and raffle ticket sales as well. The final tally of funds is not yet finalised and will be reported in the next newsletter.

Tripod, our main act this year created a stir with their rendition of the National Anthem and also creating funny lyrics to the list of sponsor names they were asked to mention...you can imagine where their imagination led them with the "LoveStruck" theme. With Tripod behind the wheels of motion on the live auction...they managed to rake in big bucks for the items which included return airfares to the US, a Essendon Guernsey and 2 footballs signed by the captains and two players, a sign flagged by Pdraig Harrington, and a T-shirt signed by Hollywood actress "Brittany Murphy".



The Ricky Loca band sent everyone into a frenzy on the dance floor with their song set and fashions of the 60s ,70s and 80s. Andrew Beveridge kept the crowd in their crazy and wild dance moods with the up and out their songs of the 90s. We even had our VIP guest remain and dance till the wee hours of the morning. The gift bags proved to be just as popular with a rare few left behind this year...obviously the LovePack was greatly appreciated...and we may just be responsible for a gaijin baby boom in Tokyo soon!

Six months of tough planning went into the event and as co-chairs for the first time this year, we would like to extend a huge thanks to this year's committee. A special thanks to Tony Scimonello for running around in the last month ensuring all the final details were

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Editor: Craig Saphin and David Taylor



in place, not to mention his efforts to assist on the night in the logistics. Both auctions ran extremely well thanks to the efforts of Mary Saphin's and Aliy Lickford's Team; to Anna Cock for a brilliant job in the ticketing, performed with great speed and without fault; and to Kate Rudolph for her crafty skills in developing the theme design and log and putting together the program with additional changes coming in right up to the time of final proof; to Leanne Stone for finding and coordinating the entertainment, even making a trip out to Narita to ensure the boys made

their way into Tokyo with no hassles. To the sponsorship team for your hard work and diligent efforts to ensure we were able to source a wide range of gifts for the auction and then doing the big chase last minute to collect all dues. And to Karen Bruce who managed all the monies and kept us afloat. To Allison Botrell for managing the entertainment on the night with such ease and great finesse. Thank you all for your flexibility and speed in meeting all the last minute changes and managing all the hiccups along the way with great professional flair.



Thank you and congratulations team.
Judy Taylor and Jasmin Kallas





Traveling Tales

(by Alison Quinliven)

The Quinlivan family was ready for a ski holiday. We knew what we wanted - close, kids area, decent skiing etc. but didn't know where to go. The chaps at www.welovesnow.com came to our rescue and organised a great weekend.

We decided upon Eichigo Yuzawa as it was an easy 90 minute shinkansen trip. The trains leave regularly from Tokyo station but be sure to book well in advance if you want to have any choice in which time you leave as the trains fill very fast.



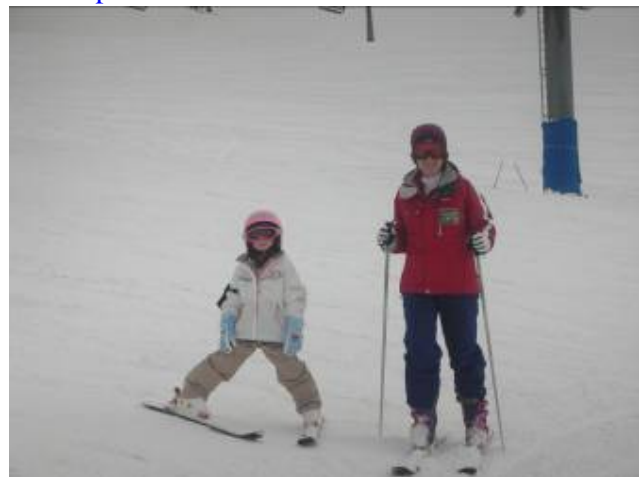
There are many resorts to choose from in the Yuzawa area but we chose Iwaparra as it has a fantastic kids snow play area as well as a decent selection of green, red and black runs for the adults. The hotel shuttle bus was at the station to meet us and took us for the 15 minute trip to the Sierra Resort. The Sierra was a very comfortable smaller style hotel. Our hotel room had a spectacular view of the mountains. We also had one piste and ski lift right outside the window. This was also the night ski run so the kids had some ski activity to watch at all times of the day and night.

The Sierra like most of the smaller style ski lodges offered an inclusive breakfast and dinner package. The food was excellent, with the dinners resembling a 5 course French style meal, at a fraction of the price you would pay at a Tokyo restaurant.

We awoke on Saturday to a snowy day which thrilled the girls. We set off after breakfast to collect our hire gear. This was all prearranged by the people at welovesnow.com. We just had to hand over the voucher at the ski rental shop and they got out the boots and skis in the sizes we had requested. The kids area at Iwappara was probably the highlight of our weekend. It had the highly desirable magic carpet (escalator) to save us dragging the sleds up the hill a million times. It also had a fantastic array of snow toys.

There were sleds, snow boogie boards, round spinning sleds, snow bike style sleds as well as snow ball making toys, buckets, spades, cubby houses etc.

Entry was free if you had a lift pass or 500 yen for all day entry. Juliet, our two year old spent a full day and a half in this area and loved every minute of it.



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While Juliet and Laura (4 years) were sledding, Rob and Amy (5 years) were off skiing. The pistes were wide and surprisingly empty of other skiers. There were no lines for the lifts and lots of space to ski.

There were plenty of places to eat on the slopes for lunch, the usual curry rice and ramen type of fare which is great on a cold day. Ski lessons can also be arranged through welovesnow.com. They can arrange group or private lessons in Japanese or with native English speaking instructors. We left the slopes mid afternoon on Sunday and were back at the house by 5pm. We had such a great experience that we have already booked to go again in 3 weeks time.



John and Gwennyth Schumacher Past members of the Australian Society, Japan

This month the newsletter introduces you to the Schumachers, Tokyo residents for 11½ years in the 1970s and 80s, and very active members of the Australian expatriate community.

The Schumachers are originally from South Australia, but they had moved around Australia with John's company, Elders Smith Goldsborough Mort, before he was asked to move to Tokyo and run the recently-established subsidiary, Elders Japan. The structure and administration had been put in place by his predecessor and John was brought in to run the import/export business from their offices near the Okura Hotel.

John, Gwennyth and teenage daughter, Louise arrived at Haneda airport on April 4th, 1975. The first thing which grabbed both John and Louise as they stepped off the plane was the vast number of aeroplanes populating the tarmac at Haneda (80 to 100 by John's guestimate). This made Melbourne airport, from whence they had come, seem very small and sleepy. Both John and Louise were sure this was going to be an exciting move. Gwennyth, however, wasn't quite so excited at the prospect of the move to Japan. She had given up a good job, and the memory of the War was still fresh for a family where members had been POWs in the Pacific.



For the first few weeks they stayed at Azabu Towers next to the Tokyo American Club (where John is a life member). When Elders was offered a vacant apartment in the block which Qantas owned they jumped at it, and so the Schumachers moved to Harajuku.

John's role was a regional one taking in Japan, South Korea & Taiwan and so there was a good deal of travel associated with the position. A large proportion of the original business was the importation of meat from Australia. Indeed, Elders was the responsible for the first supplies of Aussie meat to South Korea. On top of Elders' business, the office also represented the South Australian Government on trade issues: a post which meant that John and Gwennyth were required at many diplomatic and political functions, and required to do a fair amount of entertaining at home.

At first Gwennyth was busy with the usual duties of the trailing spouse: getting oriented; finding where to buy things (after finding out what things were); the chores of everyday living (*some things never change*) and of course the social life was hectic.

Life was difficult for the wives of the expatriate workers as the men traveled extensively and worked long hours. The working men were cosseted in their jobs with secretaries and assistants who were bilingual, and chauffeurs to ferry them hither and yon. They were helped a lot to settle into their new jobs. This was not the case with the women (*yes, this was way before the time of the male trailing spouse*) who were left to fend for themselves in a very foreign environment. The city wasn't particularly English-friendly and getting around and undertaking the essential activities of daily life that much harder than we find today, and certainly much tougher than they were used to at home. There were few traffic signs in English, so going anywhere was always preceded by procuring a map, hopefully in English, this being long before the navigation systems so essential today. The pressures on the women were fairly high, and many marriages did not survive the

experience. Elders GM was a fairly forward-thinking employer and, realising the pressures the spouse would face, had interviewed Gwennyth prior to John taking the job to ensure she was OK with the move and was the type who would be more likely to be comfortable with the new life.

Social occasions were a little different to those with which the Schumachers were familiar. Far from the more casual nature of most functions back home, the functions attended in Tokyo were very formal affairs. John and Gwennyth were given quick courses in the cultural mores of Japanese socialising, the standing of the Japanese guests and how each should be treated. A fair bit of entertaining was done at the Schumacher's home, though it seems that on many of these occasions most of the Japanese wives would decline the invitation, being uncomfortable in the foreign western environment.

In John's role as South Australian Government representative, he and Gwennyth were invited to many large, formal functions and so Gwennyth built up quite a collection of Posh Frocks. Indeed, one of her favorite pastimes was exercise class at TAC, then a coffee and then off to peruse the styles at Issey Miyake and Plantation. Gwennyth was also well known at Isetan, where I believe she contributed significantly to their profitability. Of course, most clothing was bought outside Japan at that time as real western sizes were hard to come by (*some of we larger expats would argue that things haven't changed much*). During her time here she also belonged to the Australia & New Zealand Women's Group which, apart from socialising, organised travel excursions throughout Japan. It was also around this time that the Chicken and Chablis lunches were begun as a women-only get-together. Gwennyth also ended up teaching yoga at both the Australian and New Zealand embassies.

John joined, and became President of, the Australian Society during his stay in Tokyo. When they arrived the Society was slowly trundling along, but seemed to have little spark. John became President in 1976 and intended to give the Society a bit of a shake. He was Master of Ceremonies for the Australia Society Ball from 1976 until they left Tokyo permanently. The Ball was one of the premier events on the social calendar and one of the largest events taking place at the old Hilton Hotel. Attendances were sometimes around 800 people, and were hugely popular with the other expatriate communities. There was always an Australian theme and Australian entertainment flown in for the event. One year Qantas flew a whole swag of lifesaving gear and outfits to Tokyo (including a reel) and the guys did a lifesaving routine.

His expertise as front man was also in demand with the St Mary's and the Chrysanthemum Balls, the latter being attended by the Japanese Imperial Family. John was instrumental in setting up the Nishimachi Auction to raise money for the school, and the auction for the Australian Ambassador's drive to raise money for amenities at the embassy. He was also known to organize a mean Aussie Barbeque on the lawns of the Embassy (fortunately that tradition lives on also), and once was auctioneer at the Embassy from more than 10 hours to raise funds for orphans who had been taken in by Japan after the Vietnam war. This was in the days before the new buildings, and the gardens were much larger. The embassy also had many regular social functions involving the expat community, with weekly ladies' tennis on the Embassy courts. Security was not so much of an issue in the mid-1970's and so comings and goings were a little easier.

During this time the tradition of the Melbourne Cup Lunch was begun. The first was held in the garden of Frank & Geraldine Nicol's house (Frank was the manager for Qantas at the time). It started as a private function of around 20 invited guests in 1975 and, as with the event of more recent times, little work was accomplished the day of the race. Antennae were rigged up to receive the race call; Frank had the bookie's bag flown up from Sydney for the day and a goodly supply of Sydney rock oysters were flown up the first few years. Gwennyth remembers one year when the oysters hadn't been refrigerated properly on their flight up and were very definitely off. The resourceful hostess kept the shells, purchased local Japanese oysters and put these in the imported

shells. Everyone was evidently very vocal in their belief that those Sydney rock oysters were the best, and well worth bringing up from the homeland.

The first stint in Tokyo for Elders Japan lasted 3½ years after which they were transferred back to Perth. John would have preferred to stay as the business was going gangbusters and he would have liked a little more time to consolidate. Before starting work in Perth John and Gwennyth decided to use up some of John's leave, so for 6 weeks they traveled around the world. While visiting the UK John was approached by the Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation to be North Asian Director based in Tokyo. So, without actually ever living back in Perth, they moved back to Tokyo where they settled in Hiroo. Louise meanwhile had decided to stay in Tokyo to attend Sophia University.

They stayed another eight years in Tokyo while John was with AMLC. Their Tokyo lifestyle continued as if nothing had happened, though the region he was responsible for with AMLC was somewhat larger than the one he was used to, incorporating China.

The Schumacher's finally left Tokyo in 1986 when AMLC posted them to Sydney. Gwennyth was to stay for a little while to help Louise settle into an apartment here while John flew home ahead to visit family in Adelaide. Within a couple of hours of arriving in Adelaide John suffered a massive stroke which he was lucky to survive. He required more than 12 months to recover, during which time he resigned from AMLC.

After his recovery he decided to open a consultancy company with an ex-Cabinet Minister and a Managing Director from Dalgety advising on Asian issues, especially with regard to trade. John says that things were very different in 1986: Australia had no idea where Asia was, let alone having anything to do with it in a business sense. It was difficult to convince Australian businesses of the potential of doing business with Japan and other Asian nations. The Federal government in particular was blind to Asia, and John has not many kind words for the politicians of the day and their very western-centric attitudes. After 2 years the business wasn't going as well as they had hoped and so they pulled the plug on the enterprise.

One part of the business which had been reasonably successful was that John had begun to organise trips for Japanese companies and individuals to visit Australia to purchase property. One of these companies purchased some residential properties on the Gold Coast and was so pleased with the result that they offered John the job of Managing Director for their Australian company, Nissin Property Australia Pty Ltd. John accepted and so John and Gwennyth again moved, this time to the Gold Coast, and the Schumacher's relationship with Japan continued. Nissin was a family concern, and the relationship with the company took on a personal dimension as well, and even now the Schumachers keep in contact with the family. John stayed in that position until 2002 when at the age of 70 he decided to retire when, coincidentally, Nissin decided to pull out of Australia.

Except for the last few years, the Schumachers have returned annually to Tokyo to visit Louise and the grandchildren. During this time they have seen the gradual but extensive westernization of the country, resulting in a much easier transition to Japanese life for foreigners moving here. They speak with great fondness of their time here and still have many good friends here, though some of the people the Schumachers lived near and socialised with in Tokyo are now living on the Gold Coast. In fact the Nicols (Frank ex-Qantas manager) live in the same street as John and Gwennyth these days. Several of their Japanese friends from Tokyo have also moved to the Gold Coast not far from them, which helps keep the memories of their time in Japan very much alive.



The Australia Society Monthly Coffee Morning

This event is a forum for making friends and welcoming new arrivals to Tokyo

Date: Thursday March 1

Time: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Place: **OAKWOOD RESIDENCE ROPPONGI T-CUBE**
Level 22, 3-1-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032 TEL 03-6229-3131

Map / See overleaf
Directions:

Please rsvp to Anna Cock Gibson : annacock@hotmail.com

This event is proudly sponsored by



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Coffee Morning Directions:

❖ **BY TAXI**

Up on leaving the ANA Hotel, turn left, and then proceed up “Roppongi Dori” in the direction of Roppongi. At the second set of traffic lights, turn left to access the Roppongi Prince Hotel Street. (Follow the sign to the hotel on corner) Our residence is located in the Samsung Roppongi T-Cube building, with the drive way and main 3rd floor entrance diagonally opposite and up the hill from the Roppongi Prince Hotel drive way. The taxi fare is JYP660 (approx.)

❖ **BY SUBWAY**

The residence is located on the Tokyo Metro Namboku line, directly above the Roppongi 1-chome station. On exiting the station, turn right, then head up the first set of elevators. At the first landing, turn right, then walk along the corridor to the “Samsung Roppongi T-Cube” building towards exit #1. Just before you enter the T-Cube building proper, and to the left of the first set of sliding glass doors, is the 1st floor entrance to the residence. Walk in, and then to the left before the second sliding glass doors, is an intercom that connects to our reception. Press “100 CALL” to be connected to the front desk and then ask to be let in. Walk along the corridor to the express elevator and proceed to the 22nd floor.

Map



Chicken and Chablis - Ladies Luncheon Group

Chicken and Chablis was originally formed by and for Australian and New Zealand women to meet once a month at different restaurants in Tokyo. It has continued and evolved over the years and now includes women from other Commonwealth countries as well.

Normally the group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month and we enjoy each others company over good food and a selection of NZ and Australian wines.

If you would be interested in becoming a member of Chicken and Chablis or learning more about us, please contact the current president, Brenda Gray ph 090 4621 9795 or email chickenandchablis@hotmail.com

Community Announcement:

Welcome Furoshiki, the free, no obligation community service providing a friendly welcome and information to newcomers in Kansai and Kanto now has a web-site: www.welcomefuroshiki.org. Go online to read about this great service, check out the monthly tip and contact W F if you are new in town!

Secrets From The Boudoir

(brought to you by www.boudoirtokyo.com)

Purrrfect talons

Like glossy hair and a great handbag, manicured nails are one of those grooming details that instantly make you look chic and pulled together.

Whether you prefer yours short and neat, or long and foxy, the key to keeping your nails healthy is regular care with the right products, and sorting out little niggles before they become problems

Sure, doing your own nails is economical and practical, but a professional Boudoir manicure every month is a welcome bit of pampering. What's more, our Boudoir nail pros can deal with tough problems like calluses and flaking cuticles better than you can at home.

Here are 12 handy tips to keep your hands looking fab.

1. Use cuticle oil. Dry, raggedy cuticles look unkempt. Massage in a drop of cuticle oil to moisturize and soften dry spots.

2. Condition before bed. Smooth a cream nail strengthener onto and under nails before bed for extra hydration. Especially in winter.

3. Go sheer. For a foolproof polish job, pick a sheer color with a touch of shimmer.

4. Buff away ridges. Vertical lines in nails make hands look aged. Use a buffer to smooth away those ridges

6. Keep 'em short. Long nails look talon-esque even if kept meticulously manicured. File tips to just beyond the end of your finger.

7. Go French. French manicures have made a comeback as a classy, chic alternative to simple sheer polish.

8. Moisturize with every washing. Slather on moisturizer whenever you get your hands wet. Without it, nails can become dry and brittle.

9. Wear sunscreen. Hands incur sun damage just like faces do. Don't forget to apply SPF daily.

10. Exfoliate. Use a grainy scrub on backs of hands twice a week to reveal glowing skin.

11. Release tension. Most of us hold tension in our necks and shoulders, but we can also carry the stress of the day in our hands. Give yours a daily self-massage to keep them tension-free.

12. Share facial treatments. Vitamin C, retinol, and alpha- and beta-hydroxy acids benefit the skin on our hands. Apply a bit of treatment whenever you use it on your face.

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